

## WILDER'S BRIGADE

(From National Tribune)

Joseph Boles, 123rd Ill., Brownstown, Ill., saw three years of war. He was in Wilder's famous brigade, and that was some service. He sends us a letter that was written to him by his old commander, J. T. Wilder, some years ago, and the following is an excerpt:

"... My men were the gamest and grandest that ever wore uniform or battled for a just cause. We were in 219 battles, large and small, in which we had men killed or wounded; and the dear old boys would never be driven in defeat. We captured over 12,000 prisoners, 17 rebel flags, 164 pieces of cannon—never lost a battle, wagon, colors, or a cannon, and never failed to take a position or lost one. They were simply invulnerable, and are yet the proudest and most patriotic men I know of. I never called on any of them and found them wanting. Your old regiment, the 23rd Ill., was as good a command as I ever saw; none could be better or more reliable. I am now an old man, but my heart beats high when I think of my dear old comrades of the Wilder Brigade. No man loved his boys more than I did and do still. They were the most reliable soldiers I ever knew. Good bye; God bless you one and all. Faithfully, your old Commander, comrade and friend.—J. T. Wilder."

By S. W. Birch, Flora, Ill., of Co. A, 98th Ill.

Gen. Wilder's Brigade was composed of the 98th Regt. Ill. Vols.; the 123rd Ill.; the 72nd Ind. The 98th Ill. was enlisted in southern Illinois. Co. A of that Regt. was enlisted in Flora August 2nd and went into camp August 6th, 1862, with 100 men in company, returned July 7th, 1865 with 35 men.

*1 amazing record  
but as Grandfather  
often said "The poor  
devils didn't have  
a chance against  
our repeating rifles"*  
CHB